

**CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2008**

INTRODUCTION & BUSINESS

Nancy Mendel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m. and welcomed members.

Keith Ainsworth, Treasurer, reported a positive account balance and noted an increase in CBA fees from \$18 to \$22 per member. Keith recommended no increase in dues at this time, with the issue to be revisited prior to February 28, 2009.

Holly Winger, reported on the March 27 joint program with SWEP, on striking a balance for responsible development. A motion was made and passed to share any proceeds equally with SWEP. April's meeting will be a joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning section on conservation easements.

Matt Stone, Law School Liaison, announced two programs: mentoring and law student shadowing. Matt suggested the Section consider hosting one law student at each section meeting. Keith Ainsworth suggested a 50% per student dinner subsidy to allow more students to attend, funded with a \$1 dues increase. Matt will check interest of students.

Ann Catino, Vice Chair, reported on the Connecticut Brownfields Task Force and its recent Report, circulated to the Legislature's Environment and Commerce Committees. The Report discusses past year efforts of the Task Force regarding impediments to brownfields redevelopment, with a specific focus on tax credits and environmental insurance. The funding issue remains a significant factor for the Task Force with only \$2.5 million of the requested \$75 million being approved in the state budget.

Matt Ranelli, Legislative Liaison, has been sending legislative updates to the members. If you have not been receiving the updates, see Matt.

Nancy Mendel discussed the possibility of increasing the term of Section Officers from 1 year to 2 years, to have better consistency with the larger state environmental community.

There were no other Committee Reports.

PRESENTATION

Ryan McKain of Shipman & Goodwin introduced Senator Edward Meyer and Representative Richard Roy, joint chairs of the Environment Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly.

Senator Meyer discussed his view of the status of the Department of Environmental Protection and the challenges it faces. He discussed the constant challenges of staffing and funding deficiencies specifically regarding brownfields redevelopment, river protection, oversight of Long Island Sound and the parks division, and noted that, taking inflation into account, the DEP has the same budget now as when it was created in 1972. Senator Meyer's top three goals are to reorganize and revitalize the DEP, catch up on funding for Long Island Sound, and implement an honest permitting system for industrial discharges to rivers.

Representative Roy stated that the Environment Committee is considering legislative initiatives on 1. Toxins mostly found in children's toys; 2. Global warming, looking to make incremental changes; 3. Brownfields, to facilitate remediation of brownfields sites, avoid use of greenfields and focus on economic development impacts for municipalities to bring commerce and industry back to the cities to reinvigorate them; 4. ATVs, working with DEP, ATV owners and Environmentalists on facilitating compromises on trail issues; and 5. Recycling, working on a bottle bill and pilot program for single stream recycling.

Adjournment at 8:44 p.m.

Doug Pelham, Secretary, Environmental Section